

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for the thorough review of the application. The Office Action mailed August 19, 2009, has been received and reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 5, 10, 12, and 18 are amended, and claims 6-9, 11, 13-17, and 19-20 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 10, 12, and 18 are pending of which claims 1-4 are withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects 5-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 6-9, 11, 13-17, and 19-20 are canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. As to claim 5, this claim has been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 7-10, 13-14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Driessen. Claims 7-9, 13-14, and 20 are now canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 5 recites, among other features, determining whether a temperature of the wash liquid reaches a preset temperature, ending the operation of the heater when the temperature of the wash liquid reaches the preset temperature, operating a wash pump for a first preset time, and executing subsequent cycles.

Driessen fails to disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 5. As shown in Fig. 5A of the Driessen, the pump 42 is activated (step 103) before the heating element (40) is turned on (step 110). Thus, Driessen fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 5. Therefore, claim 5 recites patentable subject matter.

Claim 10 is at least allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 5.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 11-12, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Driessen in view of Inui. Claims 6, 11, 15-17, and 19 are now canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above with respect to claim 5, Driessen fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 5. Inui fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Driessen. As noted in the Office Action at page 5, Inui discloses that wash liquid can be heated to 70 degree, and rinse cycle is performed in two or three time period. However, Inui fails to disclose or suggest determining whether a temperature of the wash liquid reaches a preset temperature, ending the operation of the heater when the temperature of the wash liquid reaches the preset temperature, operating a wash pump for a first preset time, and executing subsequent cycles, as required in claim 5. As such, claim 5 recites patentable subject matter.

Claims 12 and 18 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 5.

The foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: November 17, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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